

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 NEA-10 EA-11 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 281850Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5748

INFO AMEMBASSY ONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE AGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION ECBRUSSELS

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF FRENCH OPINION POLL ON SECRETARY KISSINGER

SUMMARY: RESULTS OF FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION POLL CONCERNING SECRETARY KISSINGER, PROBABLY TO APPEAR NEXT WEEK IN EXPRESS MAGAZINE HERE, GIVE HIM GOOD MARKS FOR EFFECT OF HIS ACTIONS ON MIDDLE EAST AND VIETNAM PROBLEMS. HE DOES LESS WELL ON CHILE, PETROLEUM CRISIS AND EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION (ALTHOUGH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF ANSWERS ON THESE THREE PROBLEMS FELL INTO NO-OPINION COLUMN). MOST OF THOSE POLLED FELT AWARD TO HIM OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IS JUSTIFIED; MAJORITIES ALSO FOUND HIM "SINCERE"

AND "SYMPATHETIC", WHILE AT SAME TIME FEELING HIS PRIMARY DESIRE IS TO SERVE "U.S. INTERESTS" RATHER THAN "CAUSE OF PEACE". POLL SHOWS AVERAGE FRENCHMAN CAN IDENTIFY SECRETARY BY NAME MUCH MORE READILY THAN HE CAN IDENTIFY JOBERT AS FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, AND SECRETARY'S ROLE IN SHAPING HIS COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY IS PERCEIVED AS FAR GREATER THAN JOBERT'S IN FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED ADVANCE COPY DECEMBER 28 OF POLL OF FRENCH PUBLIC OPINIONS ABOUT SECRETARY KISSINGER, COMMISSIONED BY NEWSWEEKLY EXPRESS. POLL WAS CARRIED OUT DECEMBER 26 BY REPUTABLE NATIONAL POLLING ORGANIZATION SOFRES AMONG REPRESENTATIVE NATIONAL SAMPLING OF POPULATION AGE 21 AND ABOVE. RESULTS WILL PROBABLY BE PUBLISHED IN EXPRESS EDITION APPEARING DECEMBER 31.

2. FIRST AND LAST QUESTIONS IN POLL COMPARED AMERICAN AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS AS TO HOW WELL THEY WERE KNOWN BY NAME, AND ABOUT THEIR ROLES VIS-A-VIS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY. ASKED FOR NAME OF AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTER, 72 PERCENT WERE ABLE TO DO SO; ONE PER CENT GAVE A WRONG NAME, AND 27 PER CENT DID NOT KNOW. WHEN ASKED FOR NAME OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, 46 PER CENT RESPONDED "JOBERT", TEN PER CENT INCORRECTLY, AND 44 PER CENT DID NOT KNOW. (INTERESTINGLY, BREAKDOWN BY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE SHOWED THAT 60 PER CENT OF THOSE PREFERRING OPPOSITION REFORMISTS AND 54 PER CENT AMONG NON-COMMUNIST LEFT WERE ABLE TO NAME JOBERT, AGAINST ONLY 48 PER CENT AMONG GOVERNMENT MAJORITY GROUPING.)

3. QUESTIONED WHETHER SECRETARY'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IS GREATER THAN, EQUAL TO, OR SMALLER THAN THAT OF PRESIDENT NIXON, 57 PER CENT THOUGHT IT IS GREATER, AND 21 PER CENT SAID ROLES ARE EQUAL. AT SAME TIME, 41 PER CENT THOUGHT THAT BASIC DIRECTIONS AND BIG DECISIONS IN U. S. FOREIGN POLICY ARE TAKEN BY PRESIDENT, AGAINST 34 PER CENT WHO FELT THEY ARE TAKEN BY SECRETARY. WHEN SAME QUESTION WAS APPLIED TO FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY, 79 PER CENT WENT FOR POMPIDOU, WITH JOBERT GETTING ONLY EIGHT PER CENT.

4. POLL MENTIONED FIVE INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND ASKED WHETHER SECRETARY'S ACTIVITY IS "GOOD" OR "BAD" FOR EACH, WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS: FOR "VIETNAM PROBLEM", 64 PER CENT THOUGHT GOOD, 16 PER CENT BAD; FOR "ISRAELI-ARAB PROBLEM", 56 PER CENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOOD, 15 PER CENT BAD; FOR "THE EVENTS IN CHILE", SIX PER CENT GOOD, 32 PER CENT BAD (AND 55 PER CENT WITH NO OPINION); FOR THE "OIL CRISES", 25 PER CENT GOOD, 32 PER CENT BAD, AND 43 PER CENT WITH NO OPINION; FOR "THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE", 22 PER CENT GOOD, 34 PER CENT BAD, AND 44 PER CENT WITH NO OPINION.

5. FORTY-SIX PER CENT OF POLLEES THOUGHT AWARD OF NOBEL PEACE

PRIZE TO SECRETARY WAS "JUSTIFIED", 36 PER CENT THOUGHT IT WAS NOT, AND 18 PER CENT HAD NO OPINION. FIFTY-SIX PER CENT FELT SECRETARY IS "SINCERE", 24 PER CENT SAID HE IS "NOT VERY SINCERE", AND 20 PER CENT HAD NO OPINION. SIXTY-NINE PER CENT FOUND HIM "SYMPATHETIC", 12 PER CENT DID NOT, AND 19 PER CENT HAD NO OPINION. ON QUESTION WHETHER SECRETARY "WANTS TO SERVE CAUSE OF PEACE BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE, OR THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES", 63 PER CENT FELT HIS PRIMARY WIS IS TO SERVE U.S. INTERESTS, AND 23 PER CENT THOUGHT PEACE TAKES PRECEDENCE.

6. EMBASSY POUCHING FULL POLL RESULTS. BELIEVE SOFRES ORGANIZATION ALSO SENDING COMPLIMENTARY COPY TO SECRETARY.
STONE

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